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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Comment on Proposed Settlement

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I'm a US citizen and live in California. I'm against the proposed DoJ settlement with Microsoft for the following reasons. As someone who bought and uses the OS/2 operating system, I suffered as a consumer when Microsoft violated antitrust law to drive it from the market. As I look to replace my computer, I am suffering again because my choices are being restricted by Microsoft's continuing conduct. A once thriving industry with competition and choice is being undermined.

My suggestion is to consider the Red Hat approach where Microsoft's free computers delivered to schools will all carry the Linux operating system.

By forcing Microsoft to disseminate a multi-platform open system to schools, the remedy (apart from providing schools with genuinely open, new software that stimulates choice and competition) will actually punish Microsoft's anticompetitive conduct.

Such a settlement would help to reintroduce competition, as opposed to the current proposed settlement, which actually rewards Microsoft for its violative conduct.

The proposed settlement actually extends Microsoft's monopoly to a new generation of users, and enables Microsoft to dump unsold inventory.

It will be a sad day for antitrust enforcement to see the violator rewarded in this way, not least because the European Community enforcement process (led by the US trained Mr. Monti) appears to understand what our own Justice Department does not.

Thank you,

Simon R. Lewis